

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification and abstract as follows:

The paragraph on page 1 beginning at line 2:

A. This application claims priority from the copending provisional application serial number 60/215,359, filed on June 30, 2000, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

The paragraph on page 27 beginning at line 1:

A2 5. Label 3 sheep blood agar (SBA) plates with "tube 5- prechallenge *E. rhusiopathiae*", the date and initials. Thoroughly mix tube 5, and aseptically remove three separate 0.1 ml aliquots from tube 5 and place it on three SBA plates. Use a sterile inoculating loop to spread the samples over the surface of the SBA plates without getting too close to the edge. Incubate the plates 20-48 hours at 37°C. Record the time the prechallenge CFUs were plated. Put all dilution tubes on ice.

The paragraph on page 27 beginning at line 13:

A3 7. After the pigs are challenged, thoroughly mix the contents of tube 5. Label three SBA plates with "tube 5-post challenge *E. rhusiopathiae* and the date. Aseptically, remove three separate 0.1 ml aliquots from tube 5 and place it on three sheep blood agar plates. Use a sterile inoculating loop to spread the samples over the surface of the SBA plates without getting too close to the edge. Incubate the plates 20-48 hours at 37°C. Record the time the post challenge CFUs were plated and calculate the time it took from the time the challenge material was thawed until the post challenge CFUs were done.

The paragraph on page 28 beginning at line 5:

A4 1. A control pig is considered positive for Erysipelas if it has clinical signs and/or a